

From: Tricia DiLella [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 4:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support of SB 15

FTR

CT General Assembly
Insurance & Real Estate Committee Public Hearing
Testimony in Support of SB 15, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Pediatric Autoimmune
Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections.

By Tricia and Steve DiLella
Submitted January 23, 2015

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee. My name is Tricia DiLella, I am a parent of a child living with PANDAS to support of SB 15.

Not having the option to see certain providers due to insurance reasons is a major barrier. There are a select few providers who are willing to help treat our children and then we are turned away for insurance reasons. We had to cancel appointments due to amounts summing over \$1000 dollars for an initial visit with a provider who treats PANDAS. Our journey has been a "long one" which is something many parents of children with PANDAS say. We have met with countless medical professionals who were not able to treat my son due to their lack of understanding of PANDAS and for that reason my son spent many months undiagnosed and under treated. This whole situation could have been avoided if we were able to see a provider who took our insurance and that specialized in PANDAS.

Insurance coverage would allow my son and others affected by the disorder to receive the adequate help and support they need. Without proper and specialized treatment our children are not able to heal and suffer many debilitating symptoms which could be remedied by receiving proper medical treatment from a provider who specializes in treating PANDAS.

Wait lists and wait time to see these select few providers is also a major barrier, however as parents we do whatever it takes to get our children the help they need. If insurance would cover such visits and allow PANDAS providers to get adequately reimbursed we could conquer this disorder together.